

**Loudoun County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday December 2, 2020, 7:15 p.m.**

Executive Committee:

Chair - Sharon Tropsf

Immediate Past Chair – Dr. Carol Williams-Nickelson

Vice Chair - Planning Shehnaz Khan

Vice Chair - Membership Heidi Bunkua

Vice Chair - Communications Craig Metz

Secretary - Kathryn Rosenbrook

Liaisons:

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education

Beth Barts, School Board

Leslie King, School Board Alternate

Member Attendance: A quorum of SEAC voting members was confirmed with Vice Chair of Membership with 11 out of 16 members present.

Business Meeting Agenda December 2, 2020

- I. Welcome and Call to Order, Sharon Tropsf, SEAC Chair 7:25

Explained the role of SEAC, Regulations, and SEAC Leadership.

- I. Public Comment-

Lorraine Hightower: Structured Literacy Instruction for all levels Tiers-1, 2, & 3 to meet the diverse needs of all students.

- II. Reports and Updates

- A. SEAC Chair.

Annual Report.

Condensed report with top issues from the SEAC survey. Survey was broken down by grade level and disability category. Presentation to the school board on December 15, 2020.

- a. SEAC Survey areas of concern: equity, transparency, transition, accessibility to instructional materials, inclusive practices, and communication.
- b. Increase in satisfaction with special educations services from 2018-2019.

SEAC Bylaws.

A thorough review has begun, a first pass was completed by the SEAC Executive Committee and will be presented to the membership for review and comments.

PTA/PTO Representatives.

Currently, have received 27 reps from the schools. Training video has been completed and will be posted and sent out to PTA/PTA Representative and SEAC Members.

Current Issues.

Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) process needs review. This includes the approval process, evaluators, restrictions, and payment considering OSEP review of VDOE. This issue will be referred to the Policy and Compliance Subcommittee.

Public Comment.

Concerns raised by Ms. Hightower will be referred to the Specialize Programs Subcommittee.

Equity Committee: SEAC Representative is Craig Metz, Vice Chair of Communications.

B. Executive Committee Next meeting December 21, 2020 @ 6:30. Open to the public.

C. Subcommittees Formation.

SEAC has three functioning committees. Committees will need to prioritize the areas to focus on based on the survey. Instructions for establishing meeting times and requirements have been sent to each SEAC Member.

D. Parent Resource Services.

New website design with easy to find information. Trainings will be a mix of livestream and pre-recorded. All flyers and workshops are posted on the website. Sign up for the Keep in Touch option offered from Parent Resource Services.

E. School Board Liaison-Beth Barts.

- Policy 5310 leaving as written (allowing no changes to an IEP without an IEP meeting). Will consider revising after the current pandemic situation is over.
- Policy 6210 Reducing size the of student walk zones from 1 mile to .8. Also, capping routes to lone hour or less. Limiting the sitting for middle school and high school to two per seat. Also, asking parents to opt out or into transportation.
- Changing the software that is used to write IEPs, looking at Virginia IEP.
- Motion was made to mandate that cameras be on for class. Parents would be able to opt out.
- Transportation is under review. This will impact bus transportation for next school year.

F. Pupil Services and the Office of Special Education.

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services. Thank you for your time and support for helping our students. A special thanks to our parents and caregivers during these difficult times. The Office of Special Education is monitoring and providing feedback on the concurrent trainings that are being developed. Welcomed back the next phase of students to school. We are working on communication and transparency. Multi-tiered supports for intervention for reading instruction.

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education. National Special Education Day signed into law today. LCPS celebration of Inclusive Schools Week December 7-11. Thank you to all who are working with our students. We are all working to support our students and families, but we must remember our teachers. Teachers are being asked to take on more roles to deliver instruction. LCPS is investigating the use of the Virginia IEP system.

III. New Business:

- A. Special Education Task Force. A draft document is in the process of being completed. It will be posted for feedback. After edits are made then it will be presented to the School Board to address distance learning issues that are facing our special education community. The needs are unique and varied just as our children. Lack of continuum of services and accessibility are significantly impacting our special education students. Current issues with distance learning crossover between ADA and IDEA. Outline solutions to provide to the school board. Key areas of focus are improving accessibility, transforming and individualizing distance learning access, and services for students who are unable to access distance learning.

IV. Adjourn. 8:21 p.m.